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Armstrong Atlantic State University 2002-2003 Athletics Year In Review

**Pirates Send Seven Of Eight Teams To NCAAs
Nine AASU Athletes Earn All-America Honors
Women's Basketball, Volleyball Win PBC Tournaments
Tishay Lewis, Katya Eronina and Zsofi Golopencza Earn
PBC Player of the Year Honors**

Volleyball

Final PBC Standings

SCHOOL	PBC	ALL
North Florida	14-0	29-6
AASU	12-2	30-10
USC Spartanburg	9-5	22-10
USC Aiken	6-8	14-18
UNC Pembroke	5-9	12-21
Francis Marion	5-9	13-22
Augusta State	3-11	15-19
Lander	2-12	8-20

PBC Championships (Aiken, S.C.)

No. 2 AASU def. No. 7 ASU 3-1
(30-28, 21-30, 30-25, 30-18)
No. 2 AASU def. No. 3 USCS 3-1
(25-30, 30-21, 30-15, 30-27)
No. 2 AASU def. No. 1 UNF 3-0
(30-27, 30-22, 37-35)

NCAA DII Regional (Tampa, Fla.)

No. 5 FSC def. No. 4 AASU 3-0
(30-22, 30-27, 30-15)

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Sarah Haynes
Erin Melius
Sofie Hakansson

All-PBC Tournament Honors

Sofie Hakansson
Alexia Piche-Hatch (MVP)

PBC Player of the Week

Candice Modlinski (Oct. 29, 2002)
Sarah Haynes (Sept. 10, 2002)

AVCA South Region Honors

Sarah Haynes
Erin Melius
Sofie Hakansson

Verizon Academic All-District III

Shelley Weekes (First Team)

2003 AASU President's Cup Winner

Shelley Weekes

Other Tournament Honors

Catawba adidas Invitational All-Tournament

Sarah Haynes, Erin Melius

2002 Bryant Invitational

Erin Melius, Sarah Haynes (MVP)

2002 St. Edward's Hilltopper Classic

Erin Melius, Sofie Hakansson

The Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball squad captured the school's first-ever Peach Belt Conference tournament title by knocking off top-seeded North Florida, 3-0, in the championship match and earning the Pirates' third consecutive bid to the NCAA DII Volleyball Championships.

Buoyed by the performance of their five seniors, the Pirates won 30 matches in a season for just the second time in school history and became the first AASU team other than women's tennis to capture a Peach Belt Conference tournament title.

Three AASU players wrapped up their four-year careers at AASU with some impressive numbers. Senior middle hitter Sarah Haynes, a three-time All-PBC and All-AVCA South Region honoree, finished her AASU career as the Pirates' all-time leader in games played (496), kills (1,383) and blocks (420). She played in 157 straight matches as a Pirate, the 10th-best consecutive matches played streak in NCAA DII history and was both AASU's first All-Region player and three-time All-PBC player.

Senior Erin Melius concluded her four-year career as the Pirates' all-time assist leader (5,582) and that total ranks 18th among NCAA DII all-time assist leaders. Senior Sofie Hakansson also finished her four-year AASU career as the Pirates' all-time leader in service aces (244) and is just the second AASU player to record over 1,000 career kills and digs (1,265 kills, 1,301 digs).

Melius, Haynes and Hakansson all earned All-PBC and AVCA All-South Region honors in 2002, while senior Shelley Weekes was named to the Verizon Academic All-District III team. Despite losing five seniors, the Pirates return seven players for 2003, including PBC Tournament MVP Alexia Piche-Hatch.

AASU's five seniors (below) captured the 2002 PBC Tournament title in Aiken, S.C., and earned the school's first automatic berth to the NCAA Volleyball Championships.



Erin Melius (left), Sarah Haynes (below), Shelley Weekes and Sofie Hakansson compiled a 124-35 record in four years at AASU.



Individual Leaders

Hitting Percentage

Candice Modlinski, .301 (7th PBC)
Sarah Haynes, .295 (9th PBC)
Shelley Weekes, .288 (10th PBC)

Kills per game

Sofie Hakansson, 3.44 (4th PBC)
Shelley Weekes, 2.91 (9th PBC)
Sarah Haynes, 2.90 (10th PBC)

Service Aces per game

Erin Melius, 0.60 (1st PBC)
Sofie Hakansson, 0.52 (3rd PBC)

Blocks per game

Candice Modlinski, 0.79 (10th PBC)

Assists per game

Erin Melius, 12.94 (2nd PBC, 16th NCAA DII)

Team Statistics

Hitting Percentage

.258 (2nd PBC)

Kills per game

15.93 (2nd PBC, 23rd NCAA DII)

Service Aces per game

2.60 (1st PBC, 25th NCAA DII)

Blocks per game

1.94 (6th PBC)

Assists per game

14.49 (1st PBC, 16th NCAA DII)

Digs per game

16.03 (7th PBC)

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Men's Basketball

Final PBC Standings

NORTH DIVISION

School	PBC	All
Augusta State	13-6	18-11
USC Spartanburg	11-8	18-11
Francis Marion	8-11	13-14
Lander	4-15	7-21
USC Aiken	4-15	5-23
UNC Pembroke	0-19	0-28

SOUTH DIVISION

School	PBC	All
Columbus State	16-3	27-5
Kennesaw State	14-5	25-10
AASU	12-7	14-14
Clayton State	11-8	17-12
North Florida	11-8	15-14
GC&SU	10-9	14-13

The AASU men's basketball team under first-year head coach Jeff Burkhamer finished fourth in the Peach Belt Conference regular season standings, going 12-7 in the league and 14-14 overall and advancing to the PBC Tournament Quarterfinals.

With a young team consisting of just two seniors and only one player (Justin Wood) who had played for AASU for more than one season, the Pirates rebounded from a rigorous opening-season schedule and a 1-7 start to win eight of their last 11 games, including knocking off two nationally-ranked teams during the year, Columbus State and Kennesaw State.

Junior Daryl Williams earned first-team All-PBC honors for the Pirates, AASU's first First-Team honoree since Robert Campbell was the two-time PBC Player of the Year from 2000-2002, by averaging 15.7 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while shooting 50.9 percent from the field. Junior Brian Bain averaged 14.3 points per game and captured the Ashley Dearing Cup for hitting 73 percent of his foul shots during the season.

Senior Dave Pisarcik finished his two-year career with the Pirates by averaging 12.6 points per game in 2002-03 and collecting 127 free throws this season, the eighth-most in a single season for the Pirates. Senior Ian Jones also finished his two-year career for AASU, averaging 5.7 points per game in 2002-03.

The Pirates set a school record in 2002-03 by allowing just 1,741 points on the year (62.2 points per game) and also set a new school record by allowing just 40 points in a 58-40 win over UNC Pembroke on Feb. 1. AASU returns seven players from the 2002-03 squad for next season.

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Daryl Williams (First Team)

Ashley Dearing Cup Winner

Brian Bain



Team Statistics

Scoring Offense

62.5 ppg (11th PBC)

Scoring Defense

62.2 ppg (1st PBC, 11th NCAA)

Scoring Margin

+0.3 (8th PBC)

Field Goal %

.450 (2nd PBC)

Free Throw %

.693 (5th PBC)

FG % Defense

.422 (4th PBC)

3-Point FG %

.325 (9th PBC)

3-Point FG % Defense

.309 (2nd PBC)

Rebounding Offense

30.8 rpg (11th PBC)

Rebounding Margin

-3.0 (9th PBC)

Blocked Shots

2.64 bpg (10th PBC)

Assists

11.04 apg (11th PBC)

Steals

8.39 spg (5th PBC)

Turnover Margin

+1.14 (5th PBC)

Assist/Turnover Ratio

0.74 (11th PBC)

3-Point FG Made

3.96 (12th PBC)

Individual Leaders

Scoring

Daryl Williams, 15.7 (6th PBC)

Brian Bain, 14.2 (12th PBC)

Dave Pisarcik, 12.6 (16th PBC)

Rebounding

Daryl Williams, 6.6 (8th PBC)

Field Goal Percentage

Daryl Williams, .509 (14th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage

Brian Bain, .730 (10th PBC)

Dave Pisarcik, .709 (13th PBC)

Steals

Brian Bain, 1.79 (7th PBC)

Daryl Williams, 1.75 (18th PBC)

Justin Wood, 1.71 (11th PBC)

Blocked Shots

Brian Bain, 0.93 (9th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds

Daryl Williams, 2.71 (9th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds

Daryl Williams, 3.93 (10th PBC)

Dave Pisarcik, 3.57 (13th PBC)



Brian Bain (left), Dave Pisarcik (top) and Daryl Williams (right) each averaged over 10 points per game in 2002-03, one year after no AASU player averaged double digit scoring in 2001-02.

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Women's Basketball

Final PBC Standings

NORTH DIVISION

School	PBC	All
Augusta State	13-6	19-10
USC Aiken	9-10	19-13
USC Spartanburg	7-12	13-15
Lander	6-12	12-15
Francis Marion	5-14	12-18
UNC Pembroke	3-16	8-19

SOUTH DIVISION

School	PBC	All
AASU	17-2	27-4
Columbus State	17-2	28-4
North Florida	12-7	20-12
Clayton State	10-9	16-11
Kennesaw State	9-10	16-13
GC&SU	6-13	13-16

The Armstrong Atlantic State women's basketball squad enjoyed a magical season in 2002-03, achieving the program's first national ranking, first Peach Belt Conference championship, first NCAA Championships berth and shocking Columbus State as junior Tishay Lewis drilled a three-point shot with 6.3 seconds remaining to give AASU a 56-55 win in the PBC Tournament Championship game in Columbus, Ga. The "shot heard 'round the Peach Belt" capped a dramatic season in which the Lady Pirates rewrote the record books, going 27-4 with an undefeated home season and a school-record 14-game winning streak.

Head coach Roger Hodge and the Lady Pirates rode the fantastic years of PBC Player of the Year Tishay Lewis, All-PBC guard Tasha Washington and senior Zandrique Cason to new school records in wins, league wins and home wins. The Lady Pirates tied Columbus State for a share of their first PBC title in school history and entered the PBC Tournament as the No. 1 seed. After close wins over Kennesaw State and USC Aiken, the Lady Pirates faced CSU on its home court and Lewis took over, scoring 16 points - including the game-winning shot - in earning PBC Tournament MVP honors to go along with her PBC Player of the Year trophy and lead AASU to the NAAs.

Lewis ranked nationally in scoring and in steals while becoming AASU's first-ever All-America honoree in women's basketball. Washington averaged 13.6 points per game and senior Zandrique Cason finished her stellar three-year career by becoming AASU's fourth-leading scorer (1,212 pts) and second-leading rebounder (774), as well as finishing as the Lady Pirates' all-time blocked shot leader with 84. AASU loses Cason and three other seniors (Shaletra and Shanetra Hodge and Anita Griffin) but returns eight players for 2003-04.

PBC All-Conference Honors

Tishay Lewis (First Team, Player of the Year)

Tasha Washington (Second Team)

PBC All-Tournament Honors

Tishay Lewis (MVP)

Tasha Washington

PBC Coach of the Year

Roger Hodge

PBC Player of the Week

Tishay Lewis (Jan. 6, Feb. 3 & Feb. 10, 2003)

Kodak Division II All-America Honors

Tishay Lewis

DII Bulletin All-America Honors

Tishay Lewis (Third Team)

WBCA All-South Atlantic Region

Tishay Lewis

Roger Hodge (Coach of the Year)

Daktronics DII All-America Honors

Tishay Lewis (Third Team)

Final WBCA DII National Ranking

No. 21

Tournament Honors

AASU/Chatham Orthopaedics All-Tournament

Tishay Lewis (MVP)

Zandrique Cason

FMU Sleep Inn Classic

Tishay Lewis

Tasha Washington

Tishay Lewis (right) transferred to AASU after two seasons at Chattanooga and became the Lady Pirates' first All-America honoree, leading AASU to the NCAA Tournament. Averaging 18.0 points per game, Lewis helped the Lady Pirates set school records for points scored in a season (2,328), victory margin (+15.8), three-pointers made (193) and attempted (578), wins (27) and free throw percentage (.712).



Individual Leaders

Scoring

Tishay Lewis, 18.0

(3rd PBC, 36th NCAA)

Tasha Washington, 13.6 (11th PBC)

Zandrique Cason, 10.7 (21st PBC)

Rebounding

Tishay Lewis, 8.3 (6th PBC)

Zandrique Cason, 6.4 (14th PBC)

Field Goal Percentage

Tishay Lewis, .474 (7th PBC)

Zandrique Cason, .451 (11th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage

Tishay Lewis, .788 (14th PBC)

Steals

Tishay Lewis, 2.94

(6th PBC, 37th NCAA)

Tasha Washington, 2.55 (8th PBC)

3-Point FG Percentage

Vandy Noldon, .392 (2nd PBC)

Tishay Lewis, .389 (4th PBC)

Tasha Washington, .386 (5th PBC)

3-Point FG Made

Tasha Washington, 1.58 (8th PBC)

Tishay Lewis, 1.35 (10th PBC)

Blocked Shots

Tishay Lewis, 0.94 (6th PBC)

Zandrique Cason, 0.87 (9th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds

Tishay Lewis, 3.26 (5th PBC)

Zandrique Cason, 2.35 (15th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds

Tishay Lewis, 5.03 (7th PBC)

Zandrique Cason (top) finished her AASU career ranked in the top 10 in eight separate categories despite playing just three seasons at AASU. She is AASU's all-time blocked shots leader and second in rebounding.

Team Statistics

Scoring Offense

75.1 ppg (1st PBC, 30th NCAA)

Scoring Defense

59.3 ppg (3rd PBC, 23rd NCAA)

Scoring Margin

+15.8 (1st PBC, 11th NCAA)

Field Goal %

.407 (5th PBC)

Free Throw %

.712 (5th PBC)

FG % Defense

.367 (4th PBC, 30th NCAA)

3-Point FG %

.334 (2nd PBC)

3-Point FG % Defense

.292 (8th PBC)

Rebounding Offense

41.4 rpg (6th PBC)

Rebounding Defense

38.7 rpg (8th PBC)

Rebounding Margin

+2.6 (6th PBC)

Blocked Shots

2.87 bpg (6th PBC)

Assists

14.13 apg (7th PBC)

Steals

13.58 spg (3rd PBC)

Turnover Margin

+6.10 (2nd PBC)

Assist/TO Ratio

0.74 (6th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds

15.65 (4th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds

25.71 (8th PBC)

3-Point FG Made

6.23 (3rd PBC, 35th NCAA)

Winning Percentage

27-4, .871 (12th NCAA)

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Baseball

Final PBC Standings

<u>School</u>	<u>PBC</u>	<u>All</u>
AASU	20-10	36-15
North Florida	18-9	39-18
Francis Marion	18-10	30-20
Kennesaw State	18-10	40-18
Columbus State	15-14	33-20
GC&SU	15-15	29-22
Augusta State	13-16	30-21
USC Aiken	13-16	30-24
Lander	10-19	27-29
UNC Pembroke	10-20	28-25
USC Spartanburg	9-18	28-26

AASU PBC All-Conference

Jon Dobyns (Pitcher)
Jeremy Olson (Pitcher)
Stacy Bennett (Utility)

PBC Coach of the Year

Joe Roberts

PBC Player of the Week

George Fletcher (Feb. 11, 2003)
Brandon McKinnon (April 7, 2003)
Stacy Bennett (April 22, 2003)

PBC Pitcher of the Week

Jeremy Olson (May 12, 2003)

South Atlantic Region All-Tmt

Brian Dice (Outfield)

ABCA South Atlantic All-Region

Jon Dobyns (Pitcher of the Year)
Jeremy Olson (Second Team - Pitcher)

ABCA DII All-America

Jon Dobyns (First Team - Pitcher)

Verizon Academic All-District III

Adam Brandenburg (First Team - Infield)

2003 AASU President's Cup Winner

Adam Brandenburg

SLAM! Canadian Player of the Week

Curtis Morrison (February 25, 2003)

2003 AASU Draftees

Stacy Bennett (14th round, pick 409 - NY Mets)
Andrew Graham (19th round, pick 550 - Detroit)

Final NCAA DII National Ranking

No. 9

Individual Statistical Leaders

Slugging Percentage

Stacy Bennett, .568 (9th PBC)

On Base Percentage

Adam Brandenburg, .476 (3rd PBC)

Runs Batted In

Stacy Bennett, 47 (8th PBC)

Triples

Stacy Bennett, 4 (1st PBC)

Total Bases

Stacy Bennett, 104 (9th PBC)

Walks

Stacy Bennett, 38 (3rd PBC, 20th NCAA)

Wins

Jon Dobyns, 12 (1st PBC, 3rd NCAA)

Jeremy Olson, 10 (2nd PBC, 11th NCAA)

Saves

Zach Shelnett, 5 (3rd PBC)

ERA

Curtis Morrison, 2.61 (3rd PBC, 49th NCAA)

Jeremy Olson, 2.96 (10th PBC)

Opponent's BA

Curtis Morrison, .207 (3rd PBC)

Jon Dobyns, .233 (8th PBC)

Strikeouts

Jon Dobyns, 106 (4th PBC)

Curtis Morrison, 94 (6th PBC)

Jeremy Olson, 84 (9th PBC)

The Pirate baseball squad captured its first Peach Belt Conference title since 1993, going 20-10 in the league and 36-15 overall, sharing the crown with North Florida and advancing to its first NCAA Championships berth since 1999.

AASU won 18 of its first 19 games in 2003, with its only loss during the stretch coming to Georgia Tech, and ascended to No. 3 in the NCAA DII rankings. The Pirates would remain in the Top 10 for the rest of the season as AASU won 20 league games for the first time in school history to capture its third PBC regular season crown. The strength of the Pirates' squad in 2003 was a pitching staff that ranked second in the country in team ERA (2.71) and boasted two All-PBC and All-Region starters in Jon Dobyns and Jeremy Olson. Dobyns was the South Atlantic Region Pitcher of the Year and AASU's first first-team All-America pitcher since 1992, going 12-2 with a 3.07 ERA and tying the school record for wins in a season. Olson went 10-4 with a 2.96 ERA and gave AASU two 10-game winners in the same season for the first time since 1987.

Junior Stacy Bennett earned All-PBC Utility honors for hitting a team-best .339 with six home runs and 47 RBIs while playing both third base and catcher.

Three seniors also excelled for AASU in their final seasons - Olson and the Pirates' middle infielders, shortstop Chris Boen and second baseman Adam Brandenburg. Boen finished his four-year career ranking in the top 10 in five offensive categories, becoming just the fourth player in AASU history to record 200+ career hits (213) and hitting .323 for his career. Brandenburg hit .310 in his two-year career and got hit by 31 pitches, one off of the all-time AASU record, as well as earning Verizon Academic All-District III honors.

The MLB First-Year Player Draft claimed two players from the Pirates as Bennett was selected in the 12th round by the New York Mets and junior catcher Andrew Graham was taken by the Detroit Tigers in the 19th round.



Senior Chris Boen (top) collected 213 hits at AASU, fourth all-time.

Junior Stacy Bennett (top right) was drafted in the 14th round by the New York Mets and compiled a .331 career batting average in three years. Junior Jon Dobyns (top) tied an AASU record with 12 victories and helped the Pirates record their lowest team ERA since 1992.

Team Statistical Rankings

Batting Average

.301 (6th PBC)

Slugging Percentage

.451 (4th PBC)

On-Base Percentage

.389 (4th PBC)

ERA

2.71 (1st PBC, 2nd NCAA)

Fielding

.965 (2nd PBC, 15th NCAA)

Home Runs

38 (5th PBC)

Sacrifice Bunts

66 (1st PBC)

Doubles

106, 2.08/gm (5th PBC, 43rd NCAA)

Double Plays

0.82/gm (46th NCAA)

Winning Percentage

36-15, .706 (18th NCAA)

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Softball

Final PBC Standings

SCHOOL	PBC	ALL
North Florida	14-2	45-10
GC&SU	12-4	42-9
Kennesaw State	14-6	35-11
Francis Marion	11-5	36-9
AASU	12-6	41-13
Columbus State	12-6	42-13
USC Spartanburg	7-11	25-24
USC Aiken	5-13	18-25
Augusta State	5-15	22-24
Lander	2-13	31-20
UNC Pembroke	2-15	14-35

NCAA II South Atlantic Regional

Longwood 1, AASU 0
 AASU 2, Wingate 1 (10 inn.)
 AASU 2, Columbus State 0
 AASU 2, North Florida 0
 GC&SU 1, AASU 0 (13 inn.)

The 2003 AASU softball squad completed a memorable season, advancing to the NCAA South Atlantic Region championship game for the second time in school history and losing, 1-0, in 13 innings to eventual national championship runner-up GC&SU in the longest game ever played in the program's six years.

Despite a disappointing PBC regular season finish of fifth, the Pirates' strength of schedule and overall record put AASU into its third NCAA Regional in six seasons as the No. 4 seed. Riding the arm of NFCA Division II All-America Katya Eronina, the Pirates eliminated three teams, including Columbus State and host North Florida, to reach the championship game. The 41 wins by the Pirates are the second-most in school history.

Eronina compiled a historic season for the Pirates in 2003, becoming AASU's first first-team All-America and setting new AASU and Peach Belt Conference records for strikeouts (326), ERA (0.36) and shutouts (20) while recording the third longest consecutive scoreless inning streak in NCAA DII history, not giving up a run for 65 1/3 innings pitched in March. The PBC's Pitcher of the Year, Eronina went 26-5, also setting AASU marks for wins and innings.

Junior Stacey Richardson also enjoyed a fine second season with the Pirates, duplicating her NFCA Second-Team All-America honors by hitting .312 with 12 home runs, 35 RBI and an AASU- and PBC-record 42 walks. Eronina's batterymate, junior Kissy Stepanova, earned All-PBC and All-Region honors by hitting .277 with seven home runs, 33 RBI and by throwing out 14 of 33 potential basestealers (42.4%) and picking off 12 more. AASU loses just one player from this season's squad - Verizon Academic All-District III pitcher Delaney Warrian.

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Katya Eronina (Pitcher of the Year)
 Stacey Richardson (Designated Player)
 Kissy Stepanova (At-Large)

PBC Pitcher of the Week

Katya Eronina (March 18, March 24, April 14, 2003)

All-PBC Tournament Team

Katya Eronina

NFCA DII All-American

Katya Eronina (First Team - Pitcher)
 Stacey Richardson (Second Team - DP)

NFCA DII Player of the Week

Katya Eronina (March 27, 2003)

NFCA All-South Atlantic Region

Katya Eronina (First Team - Pitcher)
 Stacey Richardson (First Team - DP)
 Kissy Stepanova (Second Team - Catcher)

Verizon Academic All-District III

Delaney Warrian (First Team - Pitcher)

Final NFCA Division II Rank

No. 16



Team Statistical Rankings

Batting Average

.247 (10th PBC)

Slugging Percentage

.352 (10th PBC)

ERA

0.97 (1st PBC, 4th NCAA)

Fielding

.972 (1st PBC, 5th NCAA)

Home Runs

24 (t7th PBC)

Stolen Bases

37-44 (6th PBC)

Winning Percentage

41-14, .759 (21st NCAA)

Katya Eronina (left) set new PBC records in 2003 with an 0.36 earned-run average, 20 shutouts and 326 strikeouts. Her 326 punchouts puts her on the all-time single-season DII strikeout chart and her 10.6 strikeouts per seven innings also ranks as one of the best all-time in DII.

Stacey Richardson (right) earned the respect of opposing pitchers in 2003 after leading NCAA DII in home runs a year ago. The junior set a new AASU and Peach Belt Conference record with 42 walks and drew six intentional passes, including three in one game against Lander on April 13. Richardson has hit 28 home runs in her two seasons at AASU, second-most in school history.

Individual Statistical Leaders

Slugging Percentage

Stacey Richardson, .639 (7th PBC)

On-Base Percentage

Stacey Richardson, .476 (7th PBC)

Walks

Stacey Richardson, 42 (1st PBC, 10th NCAA)

Abby Hodge, 33 (2nd PBC, 21st NCAA)

Doubles

Kissy Stepanova, 16 (4th PBC)

Home Runs

Stacey Richardson, 12 (t2nd PBC)

Total Bases

Stacey Richardson, 92 (9th PBC)

Earned Run Average

Katya Eronina, 0.36 (1st PBC, 1st NCAA)

Opponent's Batting Average

Katya Eronina, .123 (1st PBC)

Delaney Warrian, .206 (5th PBC)

Wins

Katya Eronina, 26 (2nd PBC, 11th NCAA)

Delaney Warrian, 15 (8th PBC)

Saves

Katya Eronina, 2 (t2nd PBC)

Strikeouts

Katya Eronina, 326 (1st PBC)

Delaney Warrian, 136 (3rd PBC)

Strikeouts/7 innings

Katya Eronina, 10.56 (1st PBC, 2nd NCAA)

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Men's Tennis

Final PBC Standings

SCHOOL	PBC	ALL
USC Spartanburg	7-0	20-2
North Florida	5-0	18-5
Lander	5-2	15-5
Francis Marion	4-2	13-5
AASU	5-3	12-12
Columbus State	3-5	12-8
USC Aiken	1-5	8-6
GC&SU	1-6	9-14
Augusta State	0-8	9-15

NCAA II Mid-Atlantic Regional

No. 5 AASU def. No. 4 Lees-McRae 5-0
No. 1 UNF def. AASU 5-0

The AASU men's tennis team finished with an even .500 record in 2003, but with a brutal schedule against mostly top 20 DII opponents, the Pirates found themselves in the NCAA Championships for the ninth consecutive season and advanced to the Mid-Atlantic Region final.

The Pirates started off the season well with a 7-1 record, but then AASU dropped eight straight matches against teams ranked in the Omni Hotels/ITA Division II Top 20, including four matches against the top five teams in the nation.

After the stretch, AASU rallied to win three straight, heading into the PBC Championships, where they finished fourth. With an 11-11 record against DII competition, the Pirates entered the Mid-Atlantic Regional as the No. 5 seed and knocked off No. 16 Lees-McRae, 5-0, in the opening round of the regional before bowing out to host and No. 4-ranked North Florida, 5-0, in the region final.

Sophomores Achim Roth and Dale White again put in fine campaigns for the Pirates, compiling a 24-10 doubles record and finishing the season ranked No. 4 in the country, earning All-America honors. In the fall, the duo won the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region doubles title and advanced to the Rolex DII Championships.

AASU All-PBC Honors

Achim Roth (Doubles)

Dale White (Doubles)

PBC Player of the Week

Dale White (March 8)

ITA All-America Honors

Achim Roth (Doubles)

Dale White (Doubles)

ITA Individual National Rankings

Roger Thiele (No. 50 Singles)

Achim Roth & Dale White (No. 5 Doubles)

ITA Individual Regional Rankings

Roger Thiele (No. 13 Singles)

Achim Roth & Dale White (No. 1 Doubles)

Final Omni Hotels/ITA DII National Rank

No. 14

ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Doubles Titlists

Achim Roth and Dale White



Dale White (top) and Achim Roth earned ITA All-America honors in doubles in 2003.

Individual Statistics

Singles

Player	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Dual	PBC	Fall	Overall
Roger Thiele #50	3-8	3-3	0-1	--	--	--	6-12	4-3	4-7	10-19
Dale White	0-4	2-2	5-3	2-1	--	--	9-10	2-4	5-5	14-15
Achim Roth	2-1	1-0	6-3	4-3	--	--	13-7	5-2	2-5	15-12
David Secker	2-1	4-7	3-3	2-1	--	--	11-12	5-3	--	11-12
Tim Offermann	--	--	--	1-1	5-2	5-5	11-8	4-4	8-5	19-13
Neil Murray	--	--	--	--	3-0	3-4	6-4	3-2	6-6	12-10
Jonas Askeland	--	--	--	1-4	6-5	3-0	10-9	4-2	4-6	14-15
Michael Jezt	--	--	--	--	--	0-2	0-2	0-1	3-5	3-7
Totals	7-14	10-12	14-10	10-10	14-7	11-11	64-64	19-11	32-39	98-103

Doubles

Player	#1	#2	#3	Dual	PBC	Fall	Record
Roth/White #5	16-6	--	--	16-6	5-0	9-4	24-10
Thiele/White	1-0	--	--	1-0	1-0	--	1-0
Murray/Offermann	--	0-2	--	0-2	0-1	5-4	5-6
Thiele/Offermann	2-0	10-10	0-1	11-12	5-2	--	11-12
Jezt/Secker	--	--	4-2	4-2	1-1	--	4-2
Murray/Secker	--	--	0-1	0-1	0-1	--	0-1
Murray/Roth	--	1-1	--	1-1	1-1	--	1-1
Askeland/Secker	--	0-1	9-8	9-9	3-2	--	9-9
Askeland/Thiele	--	--	--	--	--	4-4	4-4
Totals	19-6	11-14	13-12	43-32	10-5	18-12	61-44

David Secker (top) and Achim Roth (bottom) helped lead AASU to its ninth consecutive NCAA Championships appearance.



2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Women's Tennis

Final PBC Standings

SCHOOL	PBC	ALL
GC&SU	9-0	23-4
AASU	9-1	21-7
North Florida	5-2	12-11
Kennesaw State	6-3	13-5
Clayton State	6-4	8-10
Columbus State	6-4	8-10
USC Spartanburg	4-5	15-8
Francis Marion	3-6	12-8
Augusta State	2-8	11-11
UNC Pembroke	1-9	9-14
USC Aiken	0-7	6-9

NCAA II Mid-Atlantic Regional

No. 2 AASU def. No. 7 Columbus State 5-0

AASU def. No. 3 North Florida 5-1

NCAA II National Championships

No. 1 BYU Hawaii def. AASU 5-2

The AASU women's tennis team again fashioned a top 10 performance and made its ninth straight appearance in the NCAA DII Women's Tennis National Championship finals, capturing the Mid-Atlantic Regional with a 5-1 win over North Florida. Because of the pre-determined matchups in the Round of 16, the Pirates faced defending DII champion BYU-Hawaii in the first round of the finals and lost a tough match to the eventual national champion Seaside, 5-2, to end the season with a 21-7 record and a No. 6 national ranking.

Again, junior Zsofi Golopencza led the way for AASU in 2003, capturing the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region singles championship in the fall and advancing to the Rolex DII National Singles title match, where she lost to Adrienn Hegedus of BYU-Hawaii. It would be the only singles match she would lose all year long as Golopencza achieved a perfect 26-0 singles record in dual match play, including a win over Hegedus in April to finish the season ranked No. 1 in NCAA DII singles. Golopencza, who was named PBC Player of the Year for the third straight time, teamed up with a new doubles partner in sophomore Laura Peaty midway through the season and also went undefeated, going 14-0 and finishing the year ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Freshman Manuela Emmrich earned ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year honors in her solid debut campaign. Emmrich went 15-9 in dual match singles play and 21-13 overall.

AASU's seven losses in 2003 came to the top five teams in the country and the Lady Pirates return all six players from this season's squad for 2003-04.

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles, Player of the Year)

Manuela Emmrich (Singles)

Laura Peaty (Doubles)

PBC Player of the Week

Zsofi Golopencza (April 15, 2003)

PBC Tournament Co-MVP

Zsofi Golopencza

ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year

Manuela Emmrich

ITA DII Mid-Atlantic Region Singles Champion

Zsofi Golopencza

ITA/NCAA Division II All-America Honors

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles)

Laura Peaty (Doubles)

Final Omni Hotels/ITA DII National Ranking

No. 6

Final Omni Hotels ITA/DII National Rank

Zsofi Golopencza (No. 1 Singles, No. 1 Doubles)

Manuela Emmrich (No. 8 Singles)

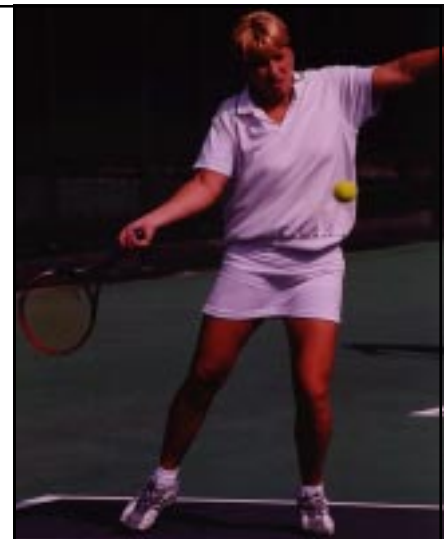
Laura Peaty (No. 1 Doubles)

Final Omni Hotels ITA/DII Regional Rank

Zsofi Golopencza (No. 1 Singles, No. 1 Doubles)

Manuela Emmrich (No. 8 Singles)

Laura Peaty (No. 1 Doubles)



Zsofi Golopencza (top) and Laura Peaty (bottom) went 14-0 in doubles in 2003.

Individual Statistics

Singles

Player	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Dual	PBC	Fall	Overall
Zsofi Golopencza #1	25-0	--	--	--	--	1-0	26-0	10-0	13-1	39-1
Laura Peaty	--	5-3	8-2	3-1	--	--	16-6	8-2	8-3	24-9
Manuela Emmrich #38	1-0	6-8	3-1	5-0	--	--	15-9	9-1	6-4	21-13
Alejandra Aguilar	--	--	--	2-1	5-2	8-7	15-10	9-1	7-3	22-13
Caroline Grage	--	2-0	4-5	8-3	3-0	--	17-8	8-2	3-3	20-11
Gemma Vaughan	--	--	--	1-0	9-6	8-1	18-7	8-2	7-3	25-10
Totals	26-0	13-11	15-8	19-5	17-9	17-7	107-40	41-7	44-17	151-57

Doubles

Player	#1	#2	#3	Dual	PBC	Fall	Record
Golopencza/Emmrich	9-5	--	--	9-5	6-1	6-2	16-7
Golopencza/Peaty #1	13-0	--	1-0	14-0	3-0	--	14-0
Grage/Peaty	--	9-3	2-0	11-3	6-1	6-2	17-5
Emmrich/Grage	1-0	10-3	--	11-3	3-0	--	11-3
Aguilar/Vaughan	--	3-0	17-8	20-8	9-1	8-3	28-11
Totals	23-5	22-6	20-8	65-19	18-3	20-7	85-26



2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Golf

PBC Championship

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
USC Aiken	573 (-3)
GC&SU	574 (-2)
Columbus State	580 (+4)
Francis Marion	582 (+6)
AASU	585 (+9)
Kennesaw State	587 (+11)
UNC Pembroke	596 (+20)
Clayton State	598 (+22)

NCAA II Southeast Regional

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
USC Aiken	865 (+1)
Francis Marion	878 (+14)
AASU	891 (+27)
Columbus State	898 (+34)
GC&SU	898 (+34)
Clayton State	910 (+46)
Presbyterian	916 (+52)
Kennesaw State	920 (+56)

AASU All-PBC Honors

Nick Cowper
Thomas Whittaker

AASU All-PBC Tournament

Jonathon Cox

GCAA All-SE Region Honors

Nick Cowper

PING/GCAA DII All-America

Nick Cowper (Second Team)

Individual Title

Ashley Loyd, Pfeiffer Intercollegiate
(68-66=134, -10, Oct. 26-27, 2003)

Team Title

Southeastern Collegiate (April 7-8, 2003)

Top 10 Finishes

Nick Cowper (6, GEICO Direct, Bobcat Invitational, Amoco Intercollegiate, Southeastern Collegiate, DII Southeast Regional, NCAA Nat. Championships)
Jonathon Cox (4, GEICO Direct, Amoco Intercollegiate, Southeastern Collegiate, PBC Championships)
Chris Epperson (2, Rollins Invitational, AASU/Southbridge Pirate Invitational)
Trey Kent (1, AASU/Southbridge Inv.)
Ashley Loyd (1, Pfeiffer Intercollegiate)
David Roger (1, GEICO Direct)
Andrew Suggs (2, AASU/Southbridge Pirate Invitational, GEICO Direct)
Thomas Whittaker (6, CSU Invitational, Presbyterian Intercollegiate, AASU/Southbridge Inv., Southeastern Collegiate, PBC Championships)

Final GCAA DII National Rank

No. 9

The Armstrong Atlantic State men's golf team continued to make strides in just its third year of competition since reinstating the program in 2000-01, advancing to its second straight NCAA Regionals appearance and sending sophomore Nick Cowper to the NCAA Championships for the second straight year.

Head coach Michael Butler's squad opened the fall season with a disappointing 11th-place finish at the CSU Invitational, but after that, the Pirates reeled off eight straight tournaments in which they finished fourth or better, including capturing their second team title in the past two years at the 2003 Southeastern Collegiate in Valdosta, Ga.

The Pirates ascended to the Top 10 in the Golf Coaches' Association of America rankings as well as the Golfstat DII statistical rankings, earning the Pirates an NCAA regionals appearance. AASU finished third at the Southeast Regional in Greensboro, Ga., but fell achingly shy of an at-large berth in the National Championships by just one spot.



Sophomore Nick Cowper, who finished fourth in the NCAA Regional, did advance to the NCAA Championships for the second straight year, and the Kennesaw, Ga., native played very well, shooting an even-par 288 and finishing tied for seventh. Cowper's performance and season-long stroke average (73.69) earned the Harrison HS grad All-Southeast Region and second-team All-America honors in 2003. Cowper will turn pro this year and not return to AASU in 2003-04.

Sophomore Nick Cowper (left) became AASU's first All-America in golf by finishing seventh at the NCAA Championships with an even-par 288. Sophomore Chris Epperson (far left) transferred to AASU from Mercer University in 2002-03 and carried a 74.78 stroke average in his first year as a Pirate.

Individual Statistics

Golfer	Rounds	Strokes	Stk. Avg.	Best Finish
Nick Cowper	26	1916	73.69	T2nd Geico Direct & Southeastern Coll.
Jonathon Cox	24	1785	74.38	3rd PBC Championships
Thomas Whittaker	27	2014	74.59	T4th AASU/Southbridge Invitational
Chris Epperson	23	1720	74.78	T6th Rollins Invitational
Ashley Loyd	21	1594	75.90	1st Pfeiffer Intercollegiate
Andrew Suggs	6	461	76.83	T4th AASU/Southbridge Invitational
David Roger	7	541	77.29	T9th GEICO Direct Invitational
Trey Kent	12	933	77.75	T7th AASU/Southbridge Invitational
TEAM	27	7997	296.19	1st Southeastern Collegiate

Team Results

Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Columbus State Invitational	11th of 13 Teams	308-286-310=904 (+40)
Oct. 7-8	Presbyterian Intercollegiate	4th of 18 Teams	300-304=604 (+28)
Oct. 26-27	North Shore/Pfeiffer Intercoll.	3rd of 20 Teams	282-287=569 (-7)
Noc. 4-5	Rollins College Intercollegiate	T3rd of 13 Teams	297-293-300=890 (+26)
Feb. 24-25	AASU/Southbridge Invitational	2nd of 9 Teams	295-289=584 (+8)
March 1-2	GEICO Direct Invitational	3rd of 7 Teams	326-309=635 (+47)
March 24-25	GC&SU Bobcat Invitational	T3rd of 16 Teams	291-291-291=873 (+33)
March 31-Apr. 1	Amoco Ultimate-Young Oil Int.	2nd of 18 Teams	296-298-291=885 (+21)
April 7-8	Southeastern Collegiate	1st of 17 Teams	286-291=577 (+1)
April 18-19	Peach Belt Conference Champ.	5th of 8 Teams	294-291=585 (+9)
May 5-7	NCAA DII Southeast Regional	3rd of 8 Teams	296-302-293=891 (+27)

2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Academics

PBC Presidential Honor Roll Honorees

Baseball	Basketball	Softball	Volleyball
Adam Brandenburg	Ian Jones	Jenny Alfirov	Sarah Haynes
George Fletcher	Scott Mattingly	Abby Hodge	Darcey Krug
Andrew Graham	Daniel Maue	Jocelyn Lavender	Ashley Lavender
Kyle Maddux	Zandrique Cason	Stacy Oliver	Erin Melius
Brandon McKinnon	Anita Griffin	Lindsay Phillips	Shannon Tracey
Jeremy Olson	Shalettra Hodge	Stacey Richardson	Shelley Weekes
Michael Pelley	Shanetra Hodge	Kissy Stepanova	
Zach Shelnutt	Aiste Slenyte	Carrie Thompson	
Joey Smith		Delaney Warrian	
Matt Stephens	Golf	Tennis	
Joe Swaim	Ashley Loyd	Achim Roth	
Jon Troop		Roger Thiele	
		Manuela Emmrich	
		Caroline Grage	



AASU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2002-2003 academic year. 46% of all AASU student-athletes carried GPAs of 3.0 or better during the 2002-03 year and the overall GPA of AASU student-athletes, as a group, was 2.87.

Forty AASU student-athletes earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll honors and three student-athletes were named Verizon Academic All-District - volleyball player Shelley Weekes for the second year in a row, baseball player Adam Brandenburg and softball player Delaney Warrian.

Weekes and men's basketball player Ian Jones both carried perfect 4.0 GPAs during the year and 21 student-athletes made the Dean's List in 2002-03.

Brandenburg and Weekes were the 2003 President's Cup winners, given by the Savannah Exchange Club to the top male and female student-athlete of the year.

Commissioner's Cup

AASU finished third in the 2003 Peach Belt Conference Commissioner's Cup standings, which is the conference's all-sports trophy. AASU received 63.5 points out of a possible 82, for a .774 percentage, ranking behind only North Florida and Kennesaw State. AASU was boosted in the standings by the women's basketball team's first-ever Peach Belt Conference title and the baseball squad's first PBC crown since 1993. Volleyball and women's tennis chipped in second-place finishes as well.

2002-2003 Commissioner's Cup Final Standings

School	MXC (9)	WXC (11)	MSO (7)	WSO (7)	VB (8)	MBB (12)	WBB (12)	BB (11)	SB (11)	MT (9)	WT (11)	GF (8)	Maximum Possible*	Total Earned	Rating
UNF	8	10	6	7	8	7	9	10.5	11	8.5	9	--	109	94	.862
KSU	9	11	--	8	--	11	6.5	8	9	--	8	3	93	73.5	.790
AASU	--	--	--	--	7	9	11.5	10.5	6.5	5	10	4	82	63.5	.774
CSU	4	6	--	--	--	12	11.5	7	6.5	4	6	6	94	63	.670
CC&SU	7	9	4	6	--	7	8	--	--	--	7	1	78	49	.628
GC&SU	2.5	8	--	--	--	5	3.5	6	10	2	11	7	94	55	.585
USCS	6	4	5	5	6	7	5	1.5	5	8.5	5	--	109	58	.532
FMU	5	2	7	3.5	3.5	4	2	9	8	6	4	5	117	59	.504
ASU	1	1	--	--	2	10	10	4.5	3	1	3	--	94	35.5	.378
Lander	--	7	3	3.5	1	3	3.5	3	2	7	--	--	89	33	.371
USCA	--	3	1	2	5	2	6.5	4.5	4	3	1	8	108	40	.370
UNCP	2.5	5	2	1	3.5	1	1	1.5	1	--	2	2	108	22.5	.208

*Numbers in parentheses indicate maximum number of points that can be awarded for each sport. Ratings are determined by taking the maximum number of points available to each school, depending on how many sports each has, and dividing by the number of points won, based on conference finish through the regular season.

NACDA Director's Cup



AASU accumulated the most points ever in the 2002-03 NACDA Division II Director's Cup all-sports competition. AASU sent seven of its eight intercollegiate varsity sports to NCAA Championships this season, collected 297 points in the standings, the third most points per sport among DII institutions.

AASU finished 42nd in the aggregate standings, its best finish since 1998-99 (T22nd), but collected 37.1 points per sport, third-best behind only Grand Valley State University (Mich.), which collected 42 points per 19 sports, and BYU-Hawaii, which collected 39.8 points per eight sports.

2002-03 NACDA Director's Cup Point Standings Points Per Sport Sponsored

School	Total Points	Sports	PPS
GVSU	797.5	19	42.0
BYU Hawaii	325	8	39.8
AASU	297	8	37.1
North Fla.	628.5	17	37.0
Western St.	468.5	13	36.0
ACU	539	15	35.9
Kennesaw St.	358	10	35.8
Metro State	352	10	35.2
CSUB	597.5	17	35.1
Barry	416	12	34.7